

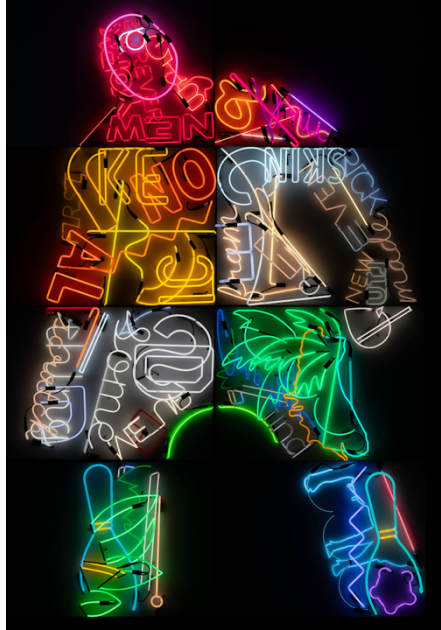
TEMLON

II

Press release
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IVÁN NAVARRO CYCLOPS

17 May – 19 July 2025



*The Cyclops, 2025, neons,
wood and electric energy, 144 × 96 in*

Iván Navarro invests TEMPLON's space with 'Cyclops', a luminous odyssey between myth, cosmos and power.

As his ambitious project for the Grand Paris Express, which has been in development for nearly a decade, is set to be unveiled in 2026, Chilean artist Iván Navarro, renowned for his light works, makes his first show in the space on Rue du Grenier-Saint-Lazare. For the Cyclops exhibition, he is displaying a series of 14 electric sculptures, which transform the space through hypnotic optical effects. Oscillating between celestial phenomena and reflections on power relations, Navarro offers an intense sensory and symbolic immersion.

The highlight of the exhibition is a monumental sculpture: a cyclops 3,6 meters high, radiating under the glass roof of the Parisian space with its multicolored recycled neon lights. For the first time, Navarro has designed a piece intended to interact with natural light. "The cyclops is a fabulous creature, present in many mythologies," the artist confides. "In exploring astral phenomena, I encountered this raw and powerful figure, capable, in legends, of making thunder roar and lightning strike. It is a true allegory of natural forces, extending my inquiries into energy and the invisible."

The exhibition is enriched by a body of work focusing on the cosmos, a theme dear to the artist, rooted in his astronomical Chilean heritage and which he has been exploring steadily for the past five years. Presented for the first time in Europe, his typographic sculptures, in the form of "crosswords", interweave the names of constellations and planets. The mural compositions, assembled or engraved in mirror, seem suspended between scientific poetry and luminous abstraction. In *Lepton II* and *Zodiac Constellations*, thousands of colored dots or stellar silhouettes are etched into the surface of two-way mirrors, creating a dizzying play of infinite reflections. The *Sun Traffic* installation features traffic lights silently displaying the word "sun" in a darkened room. Both fascinating and disturbing, these imaginary cartographies question the boundaries of astronomy, mental patterns and anthropocentrism.

The second part of the exhibition takes a more political turn. In the new *Shell Shocks* series, shards of fireworks engraved on diamond-shaped mirrors evoke post-war traumas, and resonate with Navarro's recurring preoccupations with domination, control and imprisonment - themes marked by his experience under the Pinochet dictatorship. This dimension is extended by

several *Eyes Charts*, imposing prints in the format of eye tests, in which words such as “oppress”, “revolt” and “rebel” appear, direct echoes of the popular uprisings that shook Santiago between 2018 and 2020.

Finally, the exhibition concludes in the basement with a section dedicated to his artistic intervention for the Villejuif - Gustave Roussy station of the Grand Paris Express, scheduled to open in the summer of 2026. Models, sketches, and prototypes trace nearly a decade of reflection, in close collaboration with architect Dominique Perrault. This offers an insight into the behind-the-scenes workings, where art and urbanism converge to rethink and re-enchant the public space of Paris including works such as *The Milky Way*, *Lepton II*, *Waves* and *Polka*.

Iván Navarro lives and works in New York. In 2009, he represented Chile at the 53rd Venice Biennale. In recent years, he has exhibited worldwide, including at the MicroMuseo di Arte Contemporanea della Toscana, Italy (2023); CentQuatre, Paris (2021); Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires (2019); Crystal Bridges Museum, USA (2019); Busan Museum, Korea ; Imperial War Museum, London (2018); Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain (2017); Art Basel Parcour; Yinchuan Biennale, China (2016); South London Gallery (2016), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, 2015, Sharjah Art Foundation, 2015. His work can be found in numerous international collections, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, DC) and the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (Paris). His work has been the subject of a permanent installation in San Francisco since spring 2020, with the work *The Ladder*. In 2021, his work was the subject of a retrospective at Le Centquatre. His installation *This Land Is Your Land* has been on show at the Art Omi Sculpture Park (Ghent, NY) since June 2022. As part of the Grand Paris Express, the project to transform the Villejuif - Gustave Roussy station, a collaboration between Iván Navarro and the architect Dominique Perrault, will open its doors to the public in July 2026. He has been represented by TEMPLON since 2005.